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Three hundred and eighty-fifth meeting.

October 12, 1853. — SPECIAL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT, and afterwards Professor Parsons, in the chair.

The President stated that this meeting of the Academy, in committee of the whole, was called for the special purpose of acting upon the reports made by committees on the revision of the Statutes of the Academy.

Three hundred and eighty-sixth meeting.

November 8, 1853. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The Academy met by invitation at the house of the President, — Dr. George Hayward, and afterwards the President, in the chair.

A letter was read from the Academy of Archæology of Belgium, at Antwerp, presenting the seventh volume of their Annals, requesting an exchange of publications, and a mutual election of Corresponding Members.

Professor J. Wyman made some further observations on the effect of low temperature and darkness in arresting the development of tadpoles. The experiment, at the time of his first observations, had lasted for about seventeen months; now, at the end of two years, some specimens are living in the same condition, showing no disposition to undergo metamorphosis.

Dr. Hayward related the case of a boy who had recently died from perfectly marked hydrophobia, commencing just thirty days after the bite of the dog. The wound, which was near the angle of the eye, was thoroughly cleansed by suction and cauterized with nitrate of silver, and in a few days seemed quite well; pain in the wound came on after a month; the boy became irritable, and much disturbed by cold air and water; attempts to swallow produced convulsions; stupidity soon came on, and death took place apparently from effusion in the brain. This disease is perfectly distinct from tetanus. In tetanus, the mind is unaffected, and deglutition is perfect

except during the paroxysms; the special nerves are the seat of the disease, and death ensues from asphyxia. In hydrophobia, not only the spinal nerves, but the medulla oblongata and the brain are affected. There are many cases of hydrophobia reported, but genuine cases are quite rare.

Dr. A. A. Gould mentioned the cases of a family of "bleeders," in which this idiosyncrasy of profuse and uncontrollable hemorrhage from trifling wounds was hereditary for four generations. The cases had come under his own observation. Every one of the males was a bleeder, but not one of the females. There was also the usually observed tendency to rheumatic pains in these individuals.

Dr. Burnett read a paper on the "Intimate Structure of Muscle," in which he combated Martin Barry's idea, that animal fibre is composed of twin spiral filaments. He considered the spiral arrangement as an accident, and not an essential character; he exhibited specimens under the microscope in confirmation of his views.

Professor Wyman observed that the same course of development mentioned by Dr. Burnett as occurring in the formation of muscular fibre, or cells arranging themselves in linear series, then forming fibrillæ and striæ, he had noticed in the scale of animal life; as you ascend from the Polyp, where there is nothing but cells, to the higher forms of life, the linear arrangement, the fibrillæ, and the striæ successively make their appearance in the muscular structure.

Dr. Storer alluded to the sudden death of J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., a Fellow of the Academy, and spoke in the highest terms of his attainments in natural science, especially mineralogy, geology, and botany; and of the qualities which made him in every respect a most estimable man.

D. A. A. Gould observed, that, in addition to his purely scientific attainments, Mr. Teschemacher was an excellent linguist, and eminent for his knowledge of horticulture and agriculture. His latest investigations had been to ascertain from what kind of plants coal has been formed; his collection of

specimens illustrating this point was astonishingly large and rich, and his death will be a very great loss to this little cultivated and little known branch of natural science.

Three hundred and eighty-seventh meeting.

November 9, 1853. — QUARTERLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Professor Mittermaier, of Heidelberg, acknowledging his election as Foreign Honorary Member of the Academy; also letters from Rev. Thomas Hill, Dr. S. Parkman, and Dr. B. E. Cotting, severally acknowledging their election as Fellows of the Academy.

On motion of Professor Peirce, it was

“*Voted*, That the Academy hold meetings for scientific discussion on the last Tuesday of every month, at their Hall.”

Dr. B. A. Gould, Jr. announced, that a complete catalogue of the books and pamphlets in the Academy's library had been made by the Recording Secretary, and reported sundry regulations made by the Committee on the Library for the circulation, return, and safe-keeping of the books.

Mr. B. A. Gould alluded to the recent death of M. Arago, a Foreign Honorary Member of the Academy, and offered the following preamble and resolutions: —

“Whereas, when men who have conferred benefits upon their race, or extended the domain of science, are removed from the world, it is but fitting that those who appreciate their services, and especially public bodies, should join in doing honor to their memory, —

“*Resolved*, That the Academy has received information of the decease of its illustrious member, Arago, with a profound sense of the loss sustained by science and by humanity, and desires thus to express its sentiments of respect for the memory of the distinguished scientific investigator and philanthropist.

“*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.”

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.